



# THE COLONNADE

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The softball team goes to the PBC Tournament in South Carolina this weekend.

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### WEEKEND WEATHER

Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
81	74	82
54	51	50
10%	50%	20%

Source: <http://weather.com>

## NUMBER CRUNCH

17,000

Number of new music downloads on April 7 by GCSU students on Ruckus

Source: SGA



ERIN GISH / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Thunder, the GCSU mascot, listens to music on a MP3 player. Ruckus a new file sharing program is now available to GCSU students for free. Students may download the program at Ruckus.com.

## Music software creates Ruckus

BY COURTNEY MCMAHON  
STAFF WRITER

Ruckus is a new file sharing program that is now being offered at no charge to all GCSU students. Thanks to SGA, downloading and listening to over three million tracks and viewing mainstream and independent films, and music videos are only a click away.

Lauren McDonald, SGA senator, has headed this project and hopes her hard work will pay off.

"SGA has been looking into Ruckus since last fall and working to assure that the service is compatible with our networks," said McDonald. "But we are very excited to offer this service to students at

no charge."

Ruckus does not require any student or subscription fees because of a contract between Ruckus and the University System of Georgia. McDonald explained it also runs off a Georgia education server called PeachNet, which means it does not slow the networks and downloads are often very fast.

There have been many issues concerning music downloading programs on college campuses due to illegal actions that were taking place, but Ruckus is an alternative to these issues.

"The tracks downloaded cannot be burned to CDs or MP3 players because of

Ruckus Page 3

## Charter monopoly leaves little options

BY SCOTT THOMPSON  
STAFF REPORTER

As students move out of the dorms, and into apartments and houses with their friends, numerous expenses previously included in their dorm fee are now their own responsibility, including television and Internet access.

Everyone knows this leads to the inevitable question: cable or satellite?

Many people choose cable due to the added convenience. There's no dish or equipment to install and maintain, and it's cheaper to bundle the two services. In Milledgeville, the popular choice for cable and

Internet is Charter Digital Cable.

It's also the only choice. In the most recent Yellow Book for the Milledgeville area, it's the only cable company listed. And some students believe that the absence of competition has led to inadequate service. It's one of the basic laws of economics: without competition, the consumers suffer.

"In the past month, they've told me that my Internet will be down for maintenance seven times," said senior Richard Plunkett. "I've needed to work on school and can't use the Internet. Even when it's supposed to be working, it seems like it's running

Charter Page 3

## Student voices put on the map

BY WES BROWN  
SENIOR REPORTER

Mapping a student's progress and satisfaction has been a complex issue to gauge for many institutions throughout the nation. GCSU is looking to simplify this problem by instituting a program known as MAP-Works by fall of 2008.

MAP-Works, an acronym for making achievement possible, is a Web enabled, next generation approach to improving students' transition to the college environment.

"Roughly half of first year students, whether it is transfer students or incoming freshmen, feel adjustment is a huge issue," Counseling Services counselor Susan Spencer Hendley said. "Some experience it worse than others, but it is hard to predict who will have more problems. You just cannot predict it."

MAP-Works is an optional online survey given to GCSU freshmen the second or third week of their first semester to

MAP-Works Page 2

## Earth Fest main event Saturday

BY CHRISTIN IVEY  
STAFF REPORTER

Take out your Captain Planet T-shirt, and get ready for Earth Fest 2008, a family-friendly and free festival Saturday, April 19, on GCSU's Front Campus. Earth Fest 2008 marks the week-long events planned by multiple student organizations on the GCSU campus, in honor of Earth Day. The student-based Environmental Science Club, Art Tank, Tri Beta and outdoor education students have all worked collectively to bring awareness on environmental issues to the Milledgeville community in a fun and engaging way.

Robinson Barker, president of Environmental Science Club, hopes to see a big turn out for the Earth Fest events.

"I'm really excited to see it all come together," said Barker. "We've had a lot of help this year from a lot of different groups on campus, and I'm really hoping to help bring the GCSU and Milledgeville community together for a good time and for a good cause too!"

Beginning at 11 a.m. and lasting throughout the day, GCSU's Art Tank members will demonstrate organic tie-dye methods and how to make some unconventional, earth-friendly art.

Children of all ages are invited to help turn trash into art by making "plastic trees" from recycled plastic grocery bags. Outdoor education students will lead tree climbing and slack line adventures for the more daring tree-hugger. While GCSU's chapter of Tri Beta will host an educational exhibit about "E-waste" recycling, and other planned activities such as face-painting, potato-sack races and animal exhibits should prove entertaining for the youngest and

Earth Fest Page 3



**Where:**  
Main campus

**When:**  
Saturday, April 19, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Who:**  
Art Tank, Tri Beta, WGUR, Outdoor Education, Academic Outreach and the Environmental Science Club

**What:**  
Organic Tie Dyeing  
Plastic bag tree  
E-waste recycling  
Tree climbing  
Paper Making  
Dish garden  
Local Permaculture exhibit  
GA Power Energy Audits  
Live reptiles

## Public Safety reorganizes

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
SENIOR REPORTER

The Public Safety Department has made changes in the past three weeks that GCSU believes will make the department more effective.

The main changes are the announcements that David Groseclose was promoted from interim director to assistant vice president for Public Safety, Administrative Services and Special Projects, and Joe Grant was promoted from lieutenant to major.

"(The changes) have gone very well," Groseclose said.

Groseclose had served as interim director since Ken Vance, the former director, left in August of 2007.

"The change is mostly to make my title permanent," Groseclose said. "The Public Safety aspect of my title is very pertinent."



Groseclose

While Groseclose does not have a background in police work, he has been in administration for over 20 years at GCSU.

"I'm not a certified officer or anything," Groseclose said. "What they're looking at, is that this department needed an administrator - someone familiar with the budget. We have the police people to do that part, and I'm just here to make



Grant

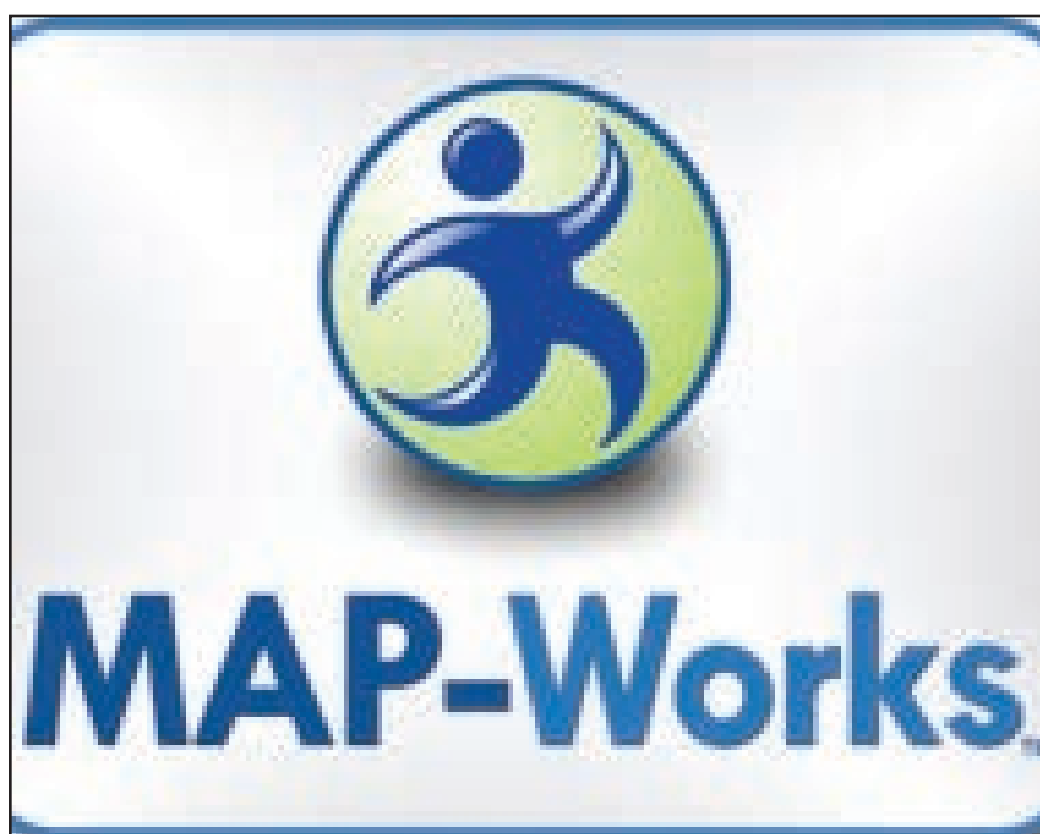
sure we don't go over budget and stuff like that."

That is where Grant steps in. Grant's promotion places him in charge of patrol and investigative officers and the dispatch operators.

"I'm assuming the role that the former deputy director had in the position," Grant said. "It's been reclassified. It's not going to be deputy director

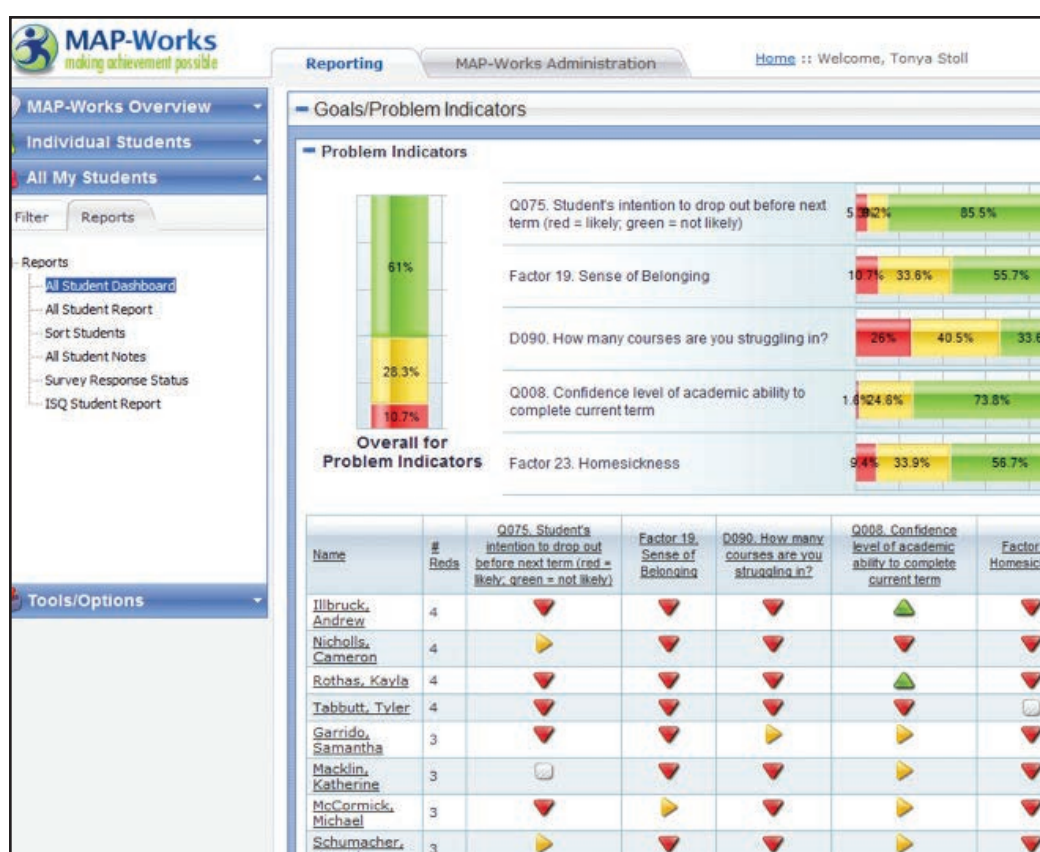
Public Safety Page 3





**Above:** GCSU will be the only university in Georgia to utilize the freshman survey instrument, MAP-Works.

**Below:** This screen shot of MAP-Works gives students an idea of how their information will be recorded and gauged.



## MAP-Works

Continued from Page 1 ...

narrow down those who do need help.

"It is a 90 item electronic instrument given only to freshmen," Paul Jahr, associate vice president for Student Affairs, said. "That is roughly 1,200 students that will take the survey. They will be asked all sorts of questions about their past experiences, current experiences and future expectations."

The focus of the survey is to examine students' progress in four areas: academic success, retention, student development and student involvement. The key areas' survey questions are based upon learning, health choices, connections and knowing yourself.

As far as the details of the survey go, each student will have an online profile, to which they will have access at all times. It takes 20 minutes to complete and an outside instrument makes the questions.

"The instrument is a commercial product that has been tested and sophisticated for over 20 years by

icated for over 20 years by the Educational Benchmarking Incorporation (EBI)," Jahr said. "Questions are predetermined and altered specifically for GCSU."

The information compiled will be sent to EBI, and sent back to the university. From there, the survey will be available to not only students but also to the appropriate staff members such as freshman seminar instructors, advisors, coaches and the resident hall directors.

"There is no right or wrong answer, it is strictly self-reporting," Jahr said.

“You, as a respondent, can choose whether or not you want to take the survey and moreover, if you take it, which questions you want to report.”

Students will receive feedback within two weeks after taking the survey, which is a valuable asset according to SGA secretary and MAP-Works student committee member Alissa Torchia.

"At the fourth or fifth week in the semester, students will get a report back," Torchia said. "They will actually get feedback, which is nice because many students just take surveys and forget about them, but this will let you know your progress and any improvements you may need to work on."

The results available to students and staff will be broken down into sections such as problem indicators, goals, self-assessment, learning, on-campus living and connections.

Each section is a composite of the scores divided into corresponding areas. Above each section, is a meter ranging from red to yellow to green gauging the student's progress and concerns. Red represents areas of concern while green represents solid performances, and yellow shows the middle ground problems forming.

"These are just parameters to give a reference to students," Jahr said. "It serves as a way to see early on indicators of some areas of concern, small 'c' of course. The first three to six weeks are critical for student success."

Moreover, the information will be compared to the freshman class as a whole so that students can get a good understanding of any adjustments students

need to make.

"The survey will compare students to their colleagues as a class in general, no direct comparisons," Jahr said. "Just to show they are not an entity of one but part of a whole group."

but part of a whole group. GCSU has never implemented a survey like this before and will be the first school in Georgia to utilize this tool. Jahr affirmed that the program has had success among other universities being piloted by ten schools around the nation last year.

"Ball State University developed the product and has seen significant improvements in success and retention," Jahr said. "They partnered up with EBI to take the instrument to a whole new level. They refined it and marketed to other universities including us because of our close relationship with them."

MAP-Works will cost the school approximately \$9,000, absorbed through the student affairs budget, but it is a cost that GCSU believes is well worth it.

"There is no cost to students," Jahr said. "This is just a fee required to participate that student affairs will cover. If you look at it by the big picture it will give us all sorts of data and direct feedback to the students."

Torchia believes this gives new students a better understanding of college but explains it is just an experiment.

"This will help students think realistically in expectations in regard to what students expect of their first year and what actually happens," Torchia said. "This is just a piloted session. We will go for a year and see how it goes and if we want to continue with it."

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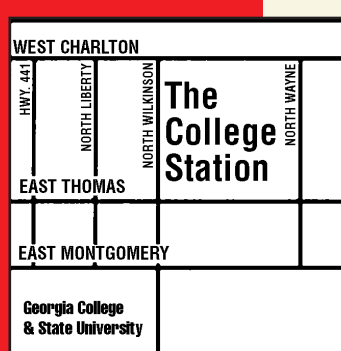
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## Earth Fest

Continued from Page 1 ...

oldest of earth lovers.

Kelley Smith, Environmental Science Club officer, thinks the earth-friendly events will be a big hit.

"It's going to be a great environmental experience not just for the university but the whole Milledgeville community," Smith said.

The Earth Fest party

will continue well into the night with an eight-hour movie marathon of "Planet Earth," a popular documentary series featured on the Discovery Channel. Along with the big Saturday festival, other planned activities for the week include four earth-themed movie nights, round-table discussions and a demonstrative group bike ride promoting alternative transportation.

Beth Oxford, a freshman environmental sci-

ence major, hopes to spread the message behind Earth Fest.

"I really think it's important to show people how we can play our part in cleaning up and protecting our planet and demonstrating that there are fun and easy ways to be environmental friendly and responsible," Oxford said.

Dr. Doug Oetter, the faculty advisor for the Environmental Science Club, explains what he hopes will come of the

club's biggest event of the semester.

"We've been working for several years to build environmental awareness on the GCSU campus and Milledgeville community," Oetter said, "And this festival will be a great way to educate and celebrate our planet and the life it gives to every one of us."

Make sure to mark your calendars for Earth Fest 2008 and come out and show your love for Mother Earth!

## Charter

Continued from Page 1 ...

slower than it should be or it needs to be reset. It gets on my nerves."

Junior Zack Wilkinson shares some of the same problems as Plunkett.

"When we got everything hooked up, it said that the Internet speed would be five megabytes per second. We found out that it meant five megabytes per second is the top speed, which is completely different from what we were told. When there are a lot of people in the area using the Internet, our connection gets slow. And college students use the Internet all the time, which means our connection is usually slower than it should be."

Wilkinson's problems have also breached into other areas of Charter's service.

"We also got HD television," Wilkinson said. "The quality is pretty good, but we only get ten HD networks. I know there are a lot more, but Charter doesn't carry them in Milledgeville. It's frustrating. I've used Comcast in the past, and I never had any problems with it. My Internet was consistently fast, and I was impressed with what they offered. Charter hasn't impressed me at all. For the amount of money that we pay, the service doesn't add up."

Furthermore, the lack of competing companies has left Wilkinson with nowhere to turn.

"Back home, if you weren't happy with the cable company, you could change providers," he added. "Here, you don't have that option, unless you want to switch to dish."

For many students moving out of university housing, cable is the only

*"I've needed to work on school and can't use the Internet. Even when it's supposed to be working, it seems like it's running slower than it should be or it needs to be reset. It gets on my nerves."*

- Richard Plunkett,  
GCSU senior

option. Dish installation can be a hassle, and many apartment buildings cannot accommodate the necessary equipment for satellite due to a lack of space.

"If there were more cable companies in Milledgeville, the service would be better," Plunkett said. "Without the competition, it seems like Charter cares less about its customers because they know that they're the only cable company in the area."

As more high school graduates attend GCSU and ultimately live in Milledgeville, the market will continue to expand. Perhaps then another cable company will enter the picture and give Charter the competition that many are looking for.

## Public Safety

Continued from Page 1 ...

anymore, it's more like a deputy chief, where I will carry the rank of major - showing that I'm higher up in rank than the patrol officers and stuff like that."

Groseclose believes Grant will do well in the role.

"He's a good leader," Groseclose said. "The offi-

cers respect him. He's ready for this."

Another role Grant will serve in is chief executive officer of Operations within the Public Safety Department, which puts him in charge of day-to-day activities in the department.

"That (position) pretty much handles all the law enforcement side of it," Grant said. "I already had about half the department under me," he said. "Now

everything is under me. Of course I answer to (Groseclose), who is the immediate supervisor. The duties right now haven't changed that much because I am still having to do the lieutenant position and the major's position, so I've just added on a lot more responsibilities."

Grant said the transition has gone well.

"I think (the school) is just trying to simplify us

and reclassify us," Grant said. "(Groseclose) and I see it going well."

The department will continue to strive to keep this campus safe.

"We're here to do the best we can to keep this a safe place for all the students to study and have a good time - as long as they don't get in trouble," Grant said. "They just can't break the law."

## Ruckus

Continued from Page 1 ...

copyright and royalty infringements, but students do have the option of paying to burn them," McDonald said. "The prices are often lower than other legal downloading services."

Signing up for Ruckus is a very simple process. Students can access it by logging on to Ruckus.com, but it requires a valid GCSU e-mail address.

"It's 100 percent virus free and way too easy not to try," McDonald said.

SGA is very pleased with the response they are getting from Ruckus. More and more users continue to log on everyday.

"When I heard about Ruckus, I started using it," music lover Rachel Pendergrast said. "It's a really good system."

SGA sent out a mass e-mail to all students on April 7, explaining this new program. That day, there were a total of 472 new subscribers and over 17,000 new downloads by

GCSU students. These numbers continue to grow as more students become aware of this new program.

"SGA will be doing ongoing advertisement to let students know about the opportunity available to them," McDonald said.

Despite all of the positive feedback from Ruckus users, some students do have complaints. McDonald explains that Ruckus is currently not available for students with MAC computers. It requires Microsoft Digital Rights Management, a

program that is not available on MAC computers. However, students can access Ruckus and browse other users play lists and profiles.

Ruckus continues to appear all over college campuses with very positive feedback. The system proves to be very trustworthy and very useful.

"I've spent a lot of time working on getting Ruckus together for the students, so I hope it will be met with as much enthusiasm as I have for it," McDonald said.

## Walgreens preparing to fill prescriptions...



DRAKE SIMONS / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Walgreens is opening soon across the street from the Milledgeville Mall. Check the April 25 issue to read the entire story.



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# Students protest to 'take back the night'



The Take Back the Night march took place on Thursday, April 10, at 6 p.m. Students started at the Reflection Pool near the resident halls and ended at the old courthouse downtown. The march was led by Jennifer Graham-Stephens and Denise Chambers.

BY JAMIE FLEMING  
SENIOR REPORTER

Several students, male and female, chanted and carried posters as they marched from the residence halls to the old Milledgeville courthouse. They were protesting to "take back the night."

According to the Take Back the Night organization, the origins of TBTN are unknown. Some think it may have started in 1877 when women protested the fear and violence experienced in the night-time streets of London, England. Others believe the first rally occurred in 1976 when women attending the International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women lit candles and took to the streets of Belgium to criticize the continuation of violence against women.

The event was held on Thursday, April 10 by The Women's Resource Center and the GCSU Feminist Club.

The speaker of the evening was Dottie Stafford, director of the Middle Georgia Crisis Line. She was chosen since she is from the Middle Georgia area, said Jennifer Graham-Stephens, Women's Resource Center coordinator.

"Right now that's the only crisis line that our students have to utilize in their area is that crisis line," Graham-Stephens said. "We wanted students to know that here is one of the people whom they would be calling, so it kind of takes the scariness away."

Stafford's speech was based on Mahatma Gandhi's quote of being the change you wish to see in the world. She discussed why events like TBTN are

important and how believing falsehoods about violence against women can make people feel better.

"Myths tend to make us feel better," Stafford said. "We don't feel as vulnerable about what's going on."

Most TBTN rallies today give survivors of violence an opportunity to voice their experiences and show others how they shifted from victim to survivor, and this one was no different. After Stafford's speech, survivors of violence were given the opportunity to break the silence and speak out.

Ten survivors told their stories, two were males. The first to get up and speak was senior art major, Denise Chambers, who spoke about being sexually abused as a child.

"For many years, I had been ashamed of it," Chambers said.

She said she felt what she had gone through wasn't as bad as what others had been through.

"A professor of mine once said that your pain is your pain, and I know that sounds simple, but it's true," Chambers said. "I wanted to share my pain with others in the hopes of giving someone else courage."

Pain is not something that takes one step, Chambers said.

"Your pain is not something you can just deal with and get over; it's a process," Chambers said. "You go through that process by acknowledging and dealing with your pain and becoming a stronger person."

Graham-Stephens said individuals sharing their experiences is both a good and bad thing.

"On one hand, you're

really, really glad that people have chosen to be brave and courageous and share their stories, but at the same time, your heart breaks because they have to share their story," Graham-Stephens said.

Rachel Stephens, a freshman psychology major, is one of the several students who participated in the march. She said she wanted to fight against domestic violence and to learn more about the issues.

"I learned about the women's shelter and why one is needed in Milledgeville," Stephens said.

Stephens said people should care about these issues because they occur often.

"It is one of those things that happens, but it's so commonplace that people are complacent," Stephens said. "Plus, it seemed like a great outlet for the people who shared their story."

Graham-Stephens said she wanted everyone to leave feeling they could make a change when they left TBTN.

"We don't have to be these really powerful politicians, and we don't need to have lots of money," Graham-Stephens said. "We can all do little things everyday."

TBTN is an important event because violence against women is so prevalent, according to Graham-Stephens.

"Sexual assault and violence against women as a whole is something that can affect anyone," Graham-Stephens said. "One is too many, and until the day when it doesn't happen to anyone, it will be important to raise awareness and to educate people."



Guest speaker Dottie Stafford, Crisis Safe House director of Macon, told of the importance of being the change in stopping domestic violence and sexual assault against men and women.

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# Opinion

The Colonnade's Forum for Public Debate

Friday, April 18, 2008

www.gcsunade.com

Editor in Chief, Lee Sandow

## OUR VOICE

### Help prevent domestic violence

Our Voice this week is about domestic violence, tying in with Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is going on throughout April.

And just so we're clear, a male member of The Colonnade staff is writing this.

Yeah, that seems a little strange to us as well. After all, most cases of domestic violence are against women, inflicted by men. According to statistics on the American Bar Association Web site, domestic violence occurs three times as often against females as it does against males.

So why is a male writing this? Wouldn't it make more sense, and be in better taste, for a female to write this?

It might, if this was going to a letter of warning for female students. It would if it were a lecture on how to protect yourself from domestic violence. It would if this were an account of abuse or rape.

That isn't this column. This installment of Our Voice is to talk to the male students, who are statistically more likely to commit such a crime.

So guys, let's have a little chat about what you can do to help prevent this from happening to the ladies everywhere.

Let me start by saying I'm not accusing you of being an abuser. Statistics show that more than 90 percent of men will never be involved in a domestic abuse case. Most of you will never be a cause for the reason this column is being written. But keep reading, I'm going to tell you what you can do to stop the men that would commit such a crime.

First, if you know of anyone who has committed such a crime, or been a victim of such a crime, make sure it is reported. Many cases of domestic abuse go unreported, because the victim doesn't want to get their aggressor into trouble with the law, or because they feel some sort of responsibility for what has happened. Don't let this happen. Convince the individual to report it, or if the aggressor has told you himself/herself what they have done, report it immediately.

Next, if you are in the presence of a domestic abuse and see it occurring, do whatever is possible to stop the incident. Don't do anything that will put you at risk, but do whatever you can to stop the incident. If there is no way to safely diffuse the situation yourself, call the police and let them handle it. Whatever you do, don't just stand idly by.

Finally, don't do anything yourself that might constitute domestic abuse. There are ALWAYS safe avenues to express emotions, even anger, without resorting to violence. If you feel that you might resort to violence, call the National Domestic Abuse Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE. This hotline is open to both victims and aggressors. If you feel that you may resort to violence, leave the area until you have cooled off. Don't let your emotions lead you into making the worst mistake of all: hurting someone you care about.

Send responses to  
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## Understanding the oil price problem



BY ANDREW ADAMS  
COLUMNIST

If you're like me, every time you drive anywhere you check out the gas prices. Every time your car approaches empty, you inevitably cringe. It seems like highway robbery (no pun intended). After looking into the topic and researching it extensively, I came to a conclusion that the real cause of high gas prices aren't the oil companies at all.

There are many reasons why gas prices are as high as they are. For the brevity of this article, I am only going to mention the three that have made the biggest difference. The first is the Iraq War which was started in 2003. You will remember that back in 2003 gas prices were consistently under \$2.00 a gallon. Robert Collier from the San Francisco Chronicle writes, "War reduced Iraq's production of oil, at a time of

increased global demand." Youssef Ibrahim of USA Today wrote that in 2004, oil production capacity in Iraq was cut from three million barrels to two million (a barrel holds about 30 gallons). Production continued to dip as Jim Krane of the Washington Post wrote in 2006, that Iraq's oil production has declined to just one million barrels per day. As fighting continues to deteriorate the Iraqi homeland, oil production has suffered a harsh 67 percent drop from three million barrels down to one million.

Of course the lack of oil production isn't only in Iraq. The Angola Press reports that "hostilities in Nigeria alone have caused a supply disruption of 675,000 barrels of oil per day." This is just one example of how oil in the world is quickly decreasing while world population and demand continue to grow.

This brings me to the second key reason why gas is so darn expensive-demand. The International Herald Tribune reported that Fatih Birol, chief economist of the International Energy Agency, said in October 2007, that oil prices will remain high in the foreseeable future because of the rapid increase in demand from India and China. I mentioned previously

about how oil production around the world is slumping by millions of barrels a day, and with an expanding automobile class in India and China there is greater global demand for oil than in years past. With a smaller supply and a greater demand, prices do tend to rise.

Unfortunately, this problem goes much farther than a simple supply and demand problem. The third key reason is the devaluing of the dollar. Whereas the dollar was once about equal to the Euro, it has fallen to equaling only about half of a Euro. This is because the value of the dollar has gone consistently down in the last few years. Ioannis Michaletos of World Press says, "as long as the dollar loses value, there is going to be a steady increase in the price of oil." This makes sense economically. If the dollar is less valuable, it is able to buy less.

These are just three reasons why gas prices are as high as they are. There are many other reasons that go far beyond supply, demand and dollar values. But I will tell you what is not one of the reasons for high gas prices: greedy oil companies. It is true that Exxon makes a profit of \$40.6 billion. A total that high can easily make you think of price gouged cus-

tomers. This brings me to the concept of "profit margins." A profit margin is a percentage of revenue that a company makes as profit. Deroy Murdock of Scripps News Service reports that Coca-Cola had a profit margin of 20.7 percent, and Microsoft had a profit margin of 27.5 percent in 2007. What do you think that the profit margin of oil companies must have been: 40, 50, maybe 60 percent? Murdock reports that it was a mere 8.3 percent.

Jerry Calbos made a great point in his column last week: before deciding a position on an important issue or policy we need to investigate and do the research to know what the facts say. Sometimes in our impatient, emotion-driven world we jump to wrong conclusions when we see something we don't understand. Oil prices are going up, and many Americans immediately assume it is because of greedy executives instead of considering the impact that global and national events have had. The price of oil is a very important issue in America, and to be able to find the most suitable solution, we must first accurately understand the nature of the problem.

Send responses to  
colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

## An overview of the situation in Iraq



BY JERRY CALBOS  
COLUMNIST

In 2003, while Osama Bin Laden was hiding in the mountains of the borderlands between Pakistan and Afghanistan, with Rangers and Marines tracking his tail, President Bush and his cronies had a plan. He would nab Saddam Hussein this time, unlike his father in the first Gulf War in 1991.

But the U.S. can't knock off a president of a sovereign nation, even if he is a dictator. Hence came about the idea of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs). Everyone knew Sadaam had used chemical weapons against Iran in the Iran-Iraq war and on his own Kurdish people in the northern part of the country in the early 1980s.

Why could there not be WMDs in Iraq in the 2003? The U.N. Commission destroyed a

number of those weapons in the 1990s. At the end of the decade, when they were kicked out (1998), military intelligence went in and destroyed the rest. This joint stealth action by the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force was called Operation Desert Fox.

All of Saddam's weapons of mass destruction were gone in less than a year. It would take him years to build factories to make the weapons of mass destruction. This is especially true noting the Iraqi economy was taking a hit because of sanctions against trading with the country.

Even if Saddam did have WMDs, a terrorist wouldn't be able to get them from him. Rather it should be said, no terrorist wanted to deal with Saddam, noting that almost every nation around Iraq was afraid of Saddam. That's right, not many nations bordering Iraq wanted to deal with Saddam. Iran is on the eastern side. History shows the Persians and Arabs are not too friendly with each other, and that's when they weren't fighting one-another. On the north is Turkey; again a different cultural group than the Arabs, plus the Kurdish situation was a sticky one for both countries. Neither wanted a

Kurdish state.

Saudi Arabia is to the south of Iraq, which has a completely different brand of Islam (Wahhabbi) than Iraq. Besides the fact that Saddam used religion as a puppet. He was a social secularist, as most military commanders are. Also to the south is Kuwait. Iraq occupied Kuwait in 1990, sparking Operation Desert Storm in 1991.

Jordan, Iraq's neighbor to the west, is a friend of the western powers, so there would be little chance of Saddam having influence there. Looks like Dubya's theory is falling to pieces.

The only nation that would deal with Iraq is Syria, which is where many of the Baath Party elites fled if they didn't get killed in the current war with Iraq. According to Middle Eastern and European news reports, the Syrian Baath party is now turning former Iraqi Baath away, for reasons of conscience.

Here's a rhetorical question: So was it that easy to fudge intelligence and make a case for Iraq? I didn't believe it on the fact that Saddam couldn't afford to buy any weapons from anyone, much less, make them on his own.

We are five years into the Iraq war. It is our American duty to question

the reasons for going into Iraq, while the Taliban have the opportunity to knock off the next Pakistani president. The former intelligence chief of Pakistan stated the other day it would not be easy, but it is possible for terrorists formerly of Afghanistan to overthrow the Pakistani government.

At this point, we're stuck in the middle of a civil war between the Sunnis and Shias. We have been for a year and a half to two years. I called a civil war before the pundits on CNN called it a civil war. So what do we do now? The best possibility at this point is to claim victory and get a timetable for six to nine months for our soldiers to get out. Some people say that's unreasonable because our mission hasn't been accomplished.

Ladies and gentlemen, the mission has changed three times since the war began. The mission is as convoluted and ambiguous now as it ever was. Meanwhile, the rest of the world is looking at us like we're imperialist goats hoarding the oil of the Middle East. How many more people must die so that we can save face in the international relations realm?

Send responses to  
colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

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**Colonnade Logo!**

We're looking for a new "The Colonnade" logo as well as a new T-shirt design.  
**ALL MAJORS WELCOME!**

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-Your design needs to send a message that clearly connects to the newspaper's mission. The voice should be edgy and fresh, bringing a new style to our slogan-

"It's your right to know, it's our duty to inform"

-High resolution, CMYK

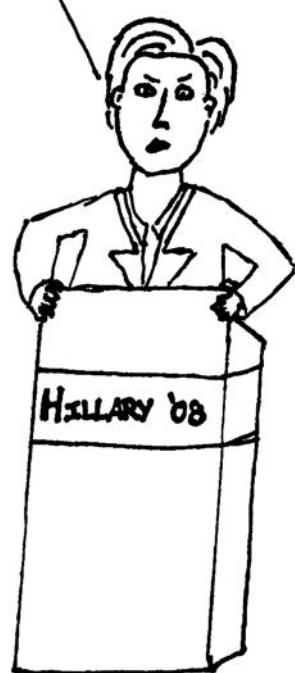
Submit both the jpeg and the photoshop, quark or indesign file by  
**\*Wednesday April 23\* to [colonnadeads@gcsu.edu](mailto:colonnadeads@gcsu.edu)**



THE HARD PRESS

BY JAMES ODOM

I understand \* middle-class Americans.



\* Even though living in the White House through most of the '90s and, along with Bill, making Millions of Dollars a year since.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Birth control a personal choice

Rachel Liu,

Unfortunately, abstinence-only programs are a large part of the problem. The fact that one in four teenage girls has an Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) is a reflection of poor education. In states where abstinence-only education is taught, teenagers believe outrageous things like a shot of soda will prevent pregnancy and a cap full of bleach will prevent HIV infection. Could it be because over 80 percent of material presented in abstinence-only education is either misleading or completely false?

Since sex is a natural, enjoyable and for the most part inevitable part of the human experience, education should focus on proper contraception, STI testing and relationship-building amongst partners, which includes respect, setting boundaries and promoting healthy sexual discussion. Most abstinence-only programs fail to cover such topics as rape, consent or victim guidance in a meaningful way, if at all.

And yes, HPV infection rates are high, but HPV can be passed via skin-on-skin contact, not exclusively sexual activity. HPV rates are high because this disease is mostly symptomless, and STI testing is not stressed in abstinence-only programs. Most people remain unaware that they even have the disease and unwittingly pass it along to their partners. And not every strain of HPV leads

to cervical cancer. Thankfully, there is now an HPV vaccine which prevents the spread of the strains which can cause cervical cancer. Unfortunately, the same crowd who cries abstinence-only are also the ones who denounce the proliferation of this vaccine.

I would also like to know where you get your sources. How does being on birth control directly relate to contracting an STI? I'm fairly certain one does not cause the other. If you're trying to make the point that because women are on birth control they are therefore engaging in high-risk sexual behaviors, that is ludicrous. What about all the married women who are on birth control because they, I don't know, don't want to have a child? Or all the non-sexually active women who are on it in order to regulate erratic menstrual cycles?

And once again someone is trying to make the argument that birth control and emergency contraceptives are dangerous medications which cause "blood clots, stroke, heart attack(s) or, in short, death." Yes, there are rare complications that arise from taking birth control and emergency contraceptive just as there are rare complications that arise from taking just about every other medication on the planet. They are not, however, the norm. Most women experience no negative consequences at all.

I'm not even going to try and respond to the allega-

tion that it is "statistically impossible to have sex with someone who is not a virgin who has not had contact with an STD." It's as ridiculous as the birth control/STI correlation assertion. Statistics can be skewed to say anything. Just ask a statistician.

Unfortunately, for your argument, abstaining from sex until marriage is not a sure-fire way of preventing STIs. Maybe you abstained until marriage, but if your spouse had one partner before you, you could still be infected. Marriage does not protect people from STIs.

And I'd really like to see the peer-reviewed, scientific study which asserts that women suffer emotional damage from one-night stands because they feel "attached" to their partner. Sounds like voodoo science to me. Once again, studies and statistics can be skewed to say anything.

Finally, birth control is about women's rights. It's about every woman's right to choose what's right for her without having to be shamed for it by people who think there is only one right way to be sexually active. So don't take pills and don't engage in premarital sex if you don't want to. That's your prerogative. You won't hear me trying to shame you for your choices, so please extend the same courtesy to the rest of us.

Sincerely,

Leigh Allen,  
junior,  
international business

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

THE COLONNADE POLICY: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Colonnade encourages readers to express their views and opinions by sending letters to the editor at: CBX 2442; Milledgeville, Ga. 31061 or by e-mail at [colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu](mailto:colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu)

All letters must be typed and include:

- names
- address/ Email address

- telephone number
  - year of study
  - major
- Only your name, year of study and major will be listed.

- Unsigned letters will not be printed. Names will be withheld only under very unusual circumstances.
- Letters longer than 300 words may be condensed.

- All letters will be edited for grammar, spelling and punctuation errors.

- All letters become the property of The Colonnade and cannot be returned.

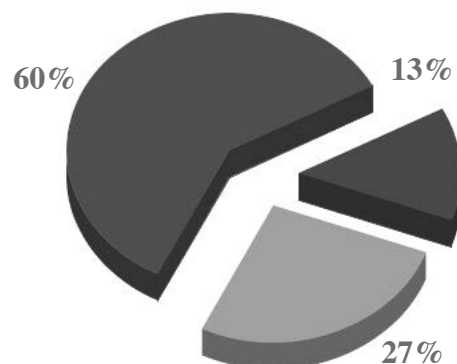
- We are not able to acknowledge their receipt or disposition. Letters will be printed at the discretion of the Editor in Chief.

POLL OF THE WEEK

GRAPHIC BY LEE SANDOW

Do you ever recycle on campus?

Yes 13%  
No 60%  
Sometimes 27%



Next week's question:

About how many hours will you spend studying for final exams?

Vote online at [gcsunade.com](http://gcsunade.com)



How stressed are you for the end of the semester?



"Not too stressed."

Reece Boston, junior, math



"Very stressed, about to die."

Mary Ford, junior, information systems



"Not that stressed."

Sean Morris, freshman, undeclared



"Not stressed enough, but I would like to be."

Geoff Foster, freshman, history



"So stressed I'm about to s\*\*\* diamonds."

David Brown, freshman, economics

Reported by Bobby Gentry

The Litter Box

Instant Message with "ColonnadeVent"  
ColonnadeVent  
Last message received at: 6:33:10 PM

Thank God Bret picked Ambre. For once he actually made a smart decision! Yay!

Is it wrong to hide porn on your roommate's computer?

To the person whining about graduation: If you are going to complain about something that GCSU works on for the whole entire year to make it perfect, then don't come, you aren't forced to walk at graduation. That is why on the graduation application they have that little box you check of whether or not you would like to walk in the ceremony. You obviously checked the box knowing you would have to wake up a little early that day. We would rather you not be there anyway if all you are going to do is bash the school that is working tirelessly to put on a commencement ceremony for us. Stay at home, in bed ... please.

Is it bad when I sit in class daydreaming about marrying Josh Hartnett??

Mass comm, WHY do you take over my life?!?!?!?!?

I wish I was drunk.

I cannot stand it when my roomie complains to me about her bad GPA. No wonder my roomie has bad grades. She gets nothing accomplished when any television show is on. And she always has the TV on. Can you say...L-A-Z-Y?

To the kids who think it's fun to yell and scream at all hours of the night in the courtyard at the Village, here's a newsflash for you: YOU'RE OBNOXIOUS.

Happy birthday, Leigh!!!!!! -Love, the members of S.E.X.Y.

Three weeks until graduation! WHOO HOO!!!

People whose jobs require them to talk to computers shouldn't be required to learn another language; binary is difficult enough thank you.

Nursing Program = depression.

When I fail all my final exams, I'm blaming Facebook bumper stickers.

There's something about looking for porn on my parent's computer that makes me feel like I'm going to Hell even quicker.

Pollen makes my life miserable.

Want to vent about something? Send us a message about what's bothering you to screen name ColonnadeVent. Comments can be sent anytime, any day of the week.

Lucida G... 12 B U A A Link Add Get info Send



# WHAT'S HAPPENING

Friday, April 18 - Thursday,  
April 24, 2008

## Friday, April 18

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Earth Fest '08: Enviromental Education Table - GCSU Fountain
2 p.m.	Honors Day - Russell Auditorium
3 p.m.	Georgia Green: Eco-Artists of the Peach State Exhibition Tour - GCSU Museum
5 p.m.	Theta Tau Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Induction Ceremony - Arts & Sciences Auditorium
5:30 p.m.	High Noon Shootout - Centennial Center
7 p.m.	High Achievers' Program Talent Showcase and Youth Poetry Slam - Magnolia Ballroom
8 p.m.	The 24 Hour Plays - Max Noah Recital Hall

## Saturday, April 19

12 a.m. - 8 p.m.	The 24 Hour Plays - Max Noah Recital Hall
11 a.m. - 8 p.m.	Earth Fest '08: Earth Day Festival - Front Campus
11:30 a.m.	Women's Leadership Conference - Student Activities Center
12 p.m.	GCSU Concert Band at the Old Governor's Mansion
1 p.m.	Bobcats Baseball vs. UNC Pembroke - Kurtz Field - West Campus
8 p.m. - 4 p.m.	Earth Fest '08: Environmental Movie: Planet Earth Marathon - Front Campus

## Sunday, April 20

1 p.m.	Bobcats Baseball vs. UNC Pembroke - Kurtz Field - West Campus
3 p.m.	Earthfest '08: Nature Hike and Bike Ride - Bartram Forest North

## Monday, April 21

12 p.m.	Earthfest '08: Georgia Green Exhibition Tour - GCSU Museum
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.	2008 Bobcat Awards and Recognition Ceremony - Magnolia Ballroom
12:30p.m. - 1:45p.m.	University Senate Meeting - 272 Arts and Sciences
12:30 p.m.	Grim Beauty by Logan Ferrelle: Gallery Talk - Blackbridge Hall Gallery
5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.	byegender by India Barfield: Gallery Talk - Blackbridge Hall Gallery
5 p.m.-7 p.m.	Earth Fest '08: Recycling Panel Discussion - Museum Education Room
	byegender by India Barfield: Opening Reception - Blackbridge Hall Gallery
	Grim Beauty by Logan Ferrelle: Opening Reception - Blackbridge Hall Gallery

## Tuesday, April 22

12 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	Earth Fest '08: Green Initiative Brown Bag Lunch - MSU Dining Hall
12:30p.m.-1:30p.m.	Visiting Artist Lecture Series Presents Deborah Gonzalez, Esq. - Museum Education Room
4 p.m.	Bobcats Baseball vs. Albany State - Kurtz Field - West Campus
7:30 p.m.	GCSU Music Theatre Scenes, Directed by Wendy Mullen - Max Noah Recital Hall

## Wednesday, April 23

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Earth Fest '08: Recycling Drive- Front Campus
12:30 p.m. - 2p.m.	SGA Senatorial Meeting-City Hall Chambers
12:30 p.m.	SIFE Meeting - 107 Atkinson Hall
2 p.m.	Wonderful Wednesday: Interviewing and Networking - 232 Lanier Hall
7:30 p.m.	Luther Enloe Guitar Recital- Max Noah Hall
8 p.m. - 10 p.m.	Earth Fest '08: Environmental Movie Night presents Cosmic Voyage - Blackbird Coffee

## Thursday, April 24

5 p.m.	Earth Fest '08:POWERride- Bobcat head-Front Campus
7:30 p.m.	GCSU Electronic Music Concert, Directed by Doug

Please send calendar submissions to [colonnadenews@gcsu.edu](mailto:colonnadenews@gcsu.edu)

## THE COLONNADE

### Public Safety Report



#### Facebook picture causes an argument between students

On April 9, at approximately 9:36 p.m., Officer Miller was dispatched to The Village, in reference to a verbal altercation. Contact was made with a female and male. The male advised that they were arguing over a picture of him in Facebook with another female. He stated the female hit him in the head with her hand, but he did not want to press any charges. The two were advised to separate for the night and both parties assured Officer Miller that the argument was over.

#### Female disoriented

On April 10, at approximately 6:46 p.m. Officer Miller and Officer Baker were dispatched to Parks lot in reference to a suspicious person. Contact was made with a female, who was dressed in a Japanese robe with Kabuki makeup, bamboo in her hair and a bottle of wine. She stated she had several medical conditions that were causing her to be out of sorts. She also advised she had taken herself out of classes, because she could not handle the load. She stated that she thought she might be going crazy. She went back to her dorm and Counselor Mary Jane Phillips was called about the situation.

#### Traces of trouble mount up

On April 11, at approximately 1:45 a.m., Officer Baker observed a male leaving Parkhurst Hall and getting into a vehicle that was waiting at the intersection of Jackson and Greene streets. The person and vehicle seemed suspicious, so Officer

Baker initiated a traffic stop and made contact with the passenger. He stated he was seeing a friend at the dorm and bringing her orange juice. While speaking with the male, Officer Baker could smell the odor of burned marijuana coming from the vehicle. A search of the vehicle found suspected marijuana in the ashtray and a blunt of suspected marijuana on another passenger. The second male claimed the marijuana to be his. A check through GCIC also found that he had outstanding warrants through Milledgeville Police Department. The warrants were verified and he was transported to Milledgeville Police Department for the warrant and also charged with misdemeanor Possession of marijuana. A search of the first male revealed a digital scale which was confiscated. The first male was trespassed from all GCSU property indefinitely. Officer Baker then made contact with two students, who stated they had been smoking marijuana with the first male in their room in a residence hall. The students have been turned over to Student Judiciary.

#### Dial tone leaves no evidence

On April 12, at approximately 11:30 p.m., a female student reported getting harassing phone calls from an unknown male who made lewd sexual comments towards her and her roommates. A written statement was taken and the case turned over to Detective Butler.

#### Too much hate to cope with

On April 15, at approximately 5:40 p.m., Sgt. Reonas was dispatched to The Village at West Campus in reference to a dispute between roommates. Contact was made with the two. One roommate made a threat towards the other. A Village staff member witnessed the altercation between the two and advised that the initiator would be moved to another room that evening. This is the fourth time since April 1 that Public Safety has had to respond to a call involving these two individuals.

Information compiled  
by Jamie Fleming

Please go online to  
[gcsunade.com](http://gcsunade.com) to download the

## NOW HEAR THIS

#### Deborah Gonzalez presents for visiting Artist Lecture

On Tuesday, April 22 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. the Visiting Artist Lecture Series will present Deborah Gonzalez in the Museum Education Room. Gonzalez is a renaissance professional with an eclectic educational background that combines business, legal and technology skills with hands-on experience. This includes more than 20 years of experience in corporate business consulting and training. In addition,

Gonzalez is a licensed New York attorney, focusing on intellectual property, including art law, international licensing, Internet and cyber law regulation, and international transaction contracts. With over 15 years of experience in the art world and legal scene, her clients include fine art artists, performing groups, galleries, museums and authors. Gonzalez will be visiting GCSU as part of our Visiting Artist Program and will be giving a public lecture about the relationship between art and law. For more information call

Sandra Trujillo at 478-445-7024.

#### Earth Fest '08 event: Nature Hike and Bike Ride

For Earth Fest '08 there will be a nature hike and bike ride held on Sunday, April 20, at 3 p.m. in the Bartram Forest North. This event is free, but if you are going to bring a bike bring your own. For more information call Doug Oetter at 478-445-7379.



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You Are Cordially Invited

## SGA Goes to City Hall

April 29, 2008 at 12:30PM

Join us as we celebrate an outstanding year of student  
representation and review this year's accomplishments.



# Features

The Colonnade's Guide to Art and Entertainment

Friday, April 18, 2008

www.gcsunade.com

Section Editor, Ana Maria Lugo

## Leap and Awe

CHELSEA THOMAS  
SENIOR REPORTER

An internationally renowned group of dancers leapt onto the Russell Auditorium stage on Tuesday, April 15. With a packed house and exuberant crowd, Alvin Ailey II took the stage to perform modern choreography and its world masterpiece, "Revelations."

Twelve young dancers amazed the audience with their sheer enthusiasm for dance and their passion for conveying that to others. Yet, their visit to GCSU consisted of more than performing; it was also combined with community outreach programs.

Alvin Ailey, one of the most internationally proclaimed modern dance ensembles in the world, was founded in 1958. Soon after the company's growth, Alvin Ailey, the founder and artistic director, created Alvin Ailey II in 1974. The mission of Alvin Ailey II is to promote dance in the community, while sharing its creative vision and young talent with the world.

*Ailey II Page 10*

*"Their company, blending ballet and modern, will exhibit a different form of dance that most people haven't seen—hopefully opening people's minds to variety of dance that is out there."*

Chelsea Losh, sophomore, English major

PHOTOS BY BOBBY GENTRY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

## Buddies bring hope and companionship to cancer patients

TIFFANY BISHOP  
SENIOR REPORTER

Specialists in Milledgeville.

"Georgia Cancer Specialists, P.C. strives to deliver compassionate, state-of-the-art, cost-effective, community-based medical care to the adult cancer and hematology patient while recognizing quality of life as a crucial focus," said the Georgia Cancer Specialists Web site.

The Georgia Cancer Specialists focus on the care of nutrition, fatigue, pain, depression and anxiety, the Web site said.

Meetings for Survivor Buddies are held every other Wednesday at 9 p.m.

The meetings focus on how Survivor Buddies has been helping and work on future ideas, but the volunteers help in the chemo treatment centers and main office daily, McGuire said.

Becoming a member is simple.

"Survivor Buddies would be more than happy to have you as a volunteer," McGuire said. "If you are interested feel free to contact us, and we will be more than happy to get you involved."

To become a member of Survivor Buddies or to receive more information, e-mail Survivorbuddies.gesu@gmail.com or join the Survivor Buddies Facebook group. To learn about other service learning groups at The GIVE Center, contact Kendall Stiles at kendall.stiles@gcsu.edu.

The group mainly works with the Georgia Cancer



Drake Simons / Senior Photographer

Cast members touched audiences with the experiences derived from the Vietnam War.

## Play takes audiences 'hearts'

CHRISTINE GEIGER  
STAFF WRITER

Packed audiences sat on the stage of Russell Auditorium last Thursday and Friday nights to experience "A Piece of My Heart," a play following the experiences of six young women as they serve in Vietnam and as they return home.

The seating arrangement, called "theatre-in-the-round," consisted of rows of chairs circling the entire stage. Audience members were seated very close to the actors and were able to see every facial expression, which according to the director of the play, senior theatre major Brooke Faulkner, made the show more engaging.

"I wanted the audience to be closer when they were watching the play, because it makes people take things more to heart," Faulkner said. "If you're right there while the action is going on, you have to be a part of it."

Sophomore theatre major Rachel Edmonds was the stage manager and costume designer for the play. She felt that Faulkner's seating choice added to the experience of the show.

"It really brought the audience into the play," Edmonds said. "And since this is such an emotional and true play, by putting the audience on stage, it feels as though they are a part of the stories being shared."

The play shows the women endure the struggles and hard-

ships of war as they experience death, violence, love, friendship and even some fun during their time in Vietnam.

Erin Burnett, senior theatre major, played Mary-Jo, a young singer that traveled all the way to Vietnam to perform for the troops. "A Piece of My Heart" was part of Burnett's senior project, and she learned to play the guitar specifically for her role in this play. Although her role was an intense one, she liked that the play focused on all the women as a whole.

"My favorite part was the ensemble work that we did," Burnett said. "It really was about the group of women, not about a specific person. We all really worked hard together and I'm really proud of the finished product."

Maria-Victoria Perez, who played Leeann, also acted in the play for her senior project. According to Perez, it was a struggle to become more laid-back and easygoing in order to portray her character Leeann, who is a true hippie. Perez feels that this play sends an important message to young people today.

"Our generation didn't live through Vietnam War, but they're going through a war now," Perez said. "They can kind of relate to war. Even though they're different in context, they can still see what's going on."

Sophomore theatre major Bren Thomas played Bruce, a

*'Piece of My Heart' Page 11*



## Ailey II

From Page 9....

Traveling to over 45 cities this year alone, Alvin Ailey II is driven to share its zeal for dance with society. While staying at GCSU, the company held a lecture and demonstration open to all students and faculty to exhibit the process of choreography for dancers and to allow audience members to interact with the Alvin Ailey II members. Select company members also offered master classes to dance minors and GCSU company members on April 14 and 15.

Katie Perreault, a freshman athletic trainer major, took the master class offered by Alvin Ailey II on April 15.

"The workshop was beneficial. It is always good to take classes from other dancers and companies. This was a way to see how they do everything. It is a good way to take a break from what you are used to as a dancer. It is sort of a new challenge," says Perreault.

The company member chosen to lead the master class on April 15 was Mr. Yannick Lebrun. Lebrun is from French Guiana, Brazil. He competed in dance competitions for eight years in French Guiana and France. Lebrun also received scholarships to such schools as Ecole Supérieure de Danse de Cannes and Rosella Hightower. When he was young he discovered that Alvin Ailey was the company for him.

"Alvin Ailey was always the one for me,

because it corresponds with my personality and my style of dancing. I really loved the whole technique," says Lebrun.

Lebrun sincerely believes the community outreach programs are one of the most important assets the company has to offer.

"For me the workshops are important, because it gives everyone the chance to have the Alvin Ailey experience. It's good to come here and share a little of what we know to those who have never had the chance to take an Ailey course," says Lebrun.

Many of the GCSU dance minor students felt the same way. Chelsea Losh, a sophomore English major, commented on her experience with Alvin Ailey II.

"I think it's a good thing that Alvin Ailey II was brought to GCSU, because I am totally in love with the company. I never thought I would ever get the chance to dance with the Alvin Ailey dancers. Their company, blending ballet and modern, will exhibit a different form of dance that most people haven't seen—hopefully opening people's minds to variety of dance that is out there," says Losh.

Alvin Ailey II was brought to Milledgeville thanks to many sponsors. MetLife is the 2008 official tour sponsor, but a multitude of other organizations bear great responsibility for the company performing here. The residency was funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Southern Arts Federation.

The Baldwin County Allied Arts and the GCSU Arts Unlimited Committee. As the packed out house proclaimed, the Alvin Ailey II performance was well appreciated.

Along with the dance masterpiece, "Revelations," known worldwide, Alvin Ailey II also performed three newer pieces. The first piece was "Celestial Landscape," choreographed by Darrell Grand Moultrie. A contemporary piece, the music was sharp and poignant, nicely offsetting the movements portrayed. "Takademe" was next, performed solely by Ephraim M. Sykes. "Takademe" expressed the chaos of gibberish and the uncontrollable state of life. The third piece, "When Dawn Comes..." was a beautiful dance made-up of duets and partnering expressing the renewal of life and the changes in relationships.

Every dance Alvin Ailey II performed brought a new aspect to dance. Some fierce, some gentle, some emotionally agonizing—overall the show captured the essence of life for every human.

Perreault sums up the importance of Alvin Ailey II's visit by saying, "It is good that GCSU brings Alvin Ailey because as a dancer, I myself know about the dancing world, but there are those that do not and by them being here, it opens up the dance world to new opportunities of growth and recognition."

## An American showcase of songs



University Chorus, Women's Ensemble and Max Noah Singers, under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Flory, honored and showcased music by American composers on Saturday, April 12, in Milledgeville's First Baptist Church.

The packed house was treated to several song premieres including a revised edition of "Effervescence" by Emma Lou Diemer, who composed the song for University Chorus and Max Noah Singers during the spring of 2006.

The song's lyrics are based from selected texts from Flannery O'Connor's essay of the same name that appeared in *The Corinthian* in 1943. "May Morning" also premiered composed by GCSU's very own Leanne Benson. Go online for an inside look in Benson's piece and to hear the premieres of "Effervescence" and Benson's "May Morning" exclusively at [www.gcsunade.com](http://www.gcsunade.com).



PHOTOS BY BOBBY GENTRY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER



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## Colonnade Profile Series



DRAKE SIMONS / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Bren Thomas (left) plays a frustrated soldier in "A Piece of My Heart."

CHRISTINE GEIGER  
STAFF WRITER

Bren Thomas, sophomore theater major and student ambassador, is not the average GCSU student. Being that he's tall, dark, bearded and an actor, he may be intimidating at first glance.

Though, upon hearing him speak, anyone can be sure he is one of the nicest people you will ever come across. Instead of spending his time binge drinking or hanging out, he spends his nights rehearsing for his next play.

This month he plays Bruce, a frustrated Vietnam soldier who dates a nurse, in the play "A Piece of My Heart." The play tells the experiences of six women who went to Vietnam to help during the war, either to entertain soldiers or as nurses. It is a powerful play that will shed some light on the serious issues that come along with war, such as the draft, death, sex and friendship. It gives a vivid look at what college-age kids of that time dealt with, an extreme contrast from the lives students today.

Thomas has been acting since he was in second grade. He started acting regularly in middle school and even directed plays in high school.

Courtney McMahon, sophomore mass communication major, has known him since high school.

"Bren is just one of those people I love to be around," McMahon said. "He has a great personality and never really appears to be nervous or shy. I think that's what makes him so good at what he does."

Though acting has become a routine part of his life, Thomas still gets nerv-

ous before he gets on the stage. However, he does not let his nerves get the best of him.

"It's fun to be on stage and get to pretend to be someone else, and a lot of times it's someone that's completely different than you," said Thomas. "It's like playing dress up."

So far at GCSU, Thomas has had roles in "The Tempest" and "A Streetcar Named Desire."

Rachel Edmonds, sophomore technical theatre major and stage manager for "A Piece of My Heart," loves to work with Thomas.

"He's got a great attitude and is really professional," Edmonds said. "He is always willing to go outside the box and try new things."

Thomas must attend about two months of rehearsals five days a week before a play is debuted. Working with the same people and for the same long hours can be frustrating. The thrill of being on stage and seeing the final product makes it all worth it, though.

"When everyone's out on stage, you perform to the best of your abilities. Then you get off stage and everybody feels like it's the best that they could have done," Thomas said. "The feeling that you get from seeing something that you have worked so hard on, seeing it actually accomplished is the best feeling ever. And that's why it's all worth while."

Another role Bren plays on campus is student ambassador, leading parents and prospective students on campus tours. His high-energy personality makes him a perfect fit for this position. He says the experience as a Student Ambassador has helped him come out of his shell and be more comfort-

able around strangers.

"Being an ambassador, you can't be afraid to go up and start a conversation with a stranger," Thomas said. "And so I feel really comfortable just going up to some really random person and talking to them, which before I was kind of hesitant about."

Walking around in front of a huge tour group can be just as nerve-wracking as being on stage.

"It seems like every time I leave the (Wellness) Depot I (unintentionally) say something really inappropriate," Thomas said. "Like I try and tell people you can go to the depot and can get a personal trainer. And once I accidentally told a tour that you can hire somebody at the depot to do anything you want with your body. I was like, 'I'm such a pervert!'"

Thomas is not exactly sure how he will use his experiences of directing, acting and singing in the future.

"I would love to just act professionally after I graduate," said Thomas. "But I've been thinking more and more about becoming a theatre professor either in high school or in college. But I'd rather move to New York and try to work on the stage."

Between rehearsing, going to classes and leading tours, Thomas stays very busy. He is doing what he loves to do, and his college experiences will help him far into his future, which will most likely be a very bright one.

"I think Bren will go very far in his acting career," Edmonds said. "He has a specific type that he plays very well, but he is also capable of playing all sorts of types, and he has proven that in the past."

## 'Piece of My Heart'

From Page 9....

frustrated and angry young soldier whose days fighting in Vietnam have taken a toll on him. Bruce's personality is very different from Thomas's, which Thomas says is what made it such a fun role. According to Thomas, "A Piece of My Heart" may have helped GCSU students understand more about war.

"I think it's important for young people to see this play, because it's about an era and a war that a lot of us don't know about," Thomas said. "It's also pertinent to our society today, because once again, we're fighting another war and I think some of the ideas in the play parallel what's happening in Iraq."

Because the cast consisted of only ten actors, there were often character and costume changes. The four men in the cast had numerous roles, each playing dying soldiers, love interests to the women and even a Vietnamese child.

The cast and crew put an extreme amount of work into making this play a successful tribute to the veterans, hoping to not only reach the young but also those who did live through the Vietnam era.

"My favorite part would be after the show was done and people's responses to it," Perez said. "Like veterans coming up and saying how much they appreciate us doing a good job and doing this for them."

The "theatre in the round" seating along with the obvious connection that the ten actors share really brought the play to life for audiences.

"I think this play was a huge success," Edmonds said. "I really wish that we had more nights to perform for an audience. We sold out every night, and still had people standing at the door wanting tickets."

Mary-Jo's quote from Act I sums up the women's time in Vietnam perfectly: "Best year of my life – Worst year of my life."

"A Piece of My Heart" depicts the good and the bad that these women experienced, and how they returned home to protesters rather than a warm welcome.

"I really think it's a good release for people to see what other people went through and that they did move on and everything was okay at the end," Faulkner said. "So students can look past the fact that they were not in Vietnam. They can connect to moving away from home, going through struggles and seeing light at the end of the tunnel."

## Online at gcsunade.com

## "Yay or Nay?"

Movie guru takes on theatre. See his review of "A Piece of my Heart."

## "24 Hour Plays"

Only a certain amount of things can be done in 24 hours: class, studying, maybe some shopping. But sooner or later, sleep will have to come. For GCSU students in the theater and creative writing departments little sleep is coming their way. Instead, the students will be writing, directing, acting and producing brand new plays all within a 24 hour time constraint. The plays will be performed in Max Noah Recital Hall on Monday, April 19. Check out the Paws to Listen podcast by Wrenn Hoover.

## Ailey Review

The Town and Gown Arts welcomed Ailey II Dance Company onto the Russell Stage on Tuesday, April 15. The Ailey II Dance Company merges the spirit and energy of the country's best young dance talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding emerging choreographers. For more information, check out Brooke Brookins' review on Paws to Listen.

## Charmed

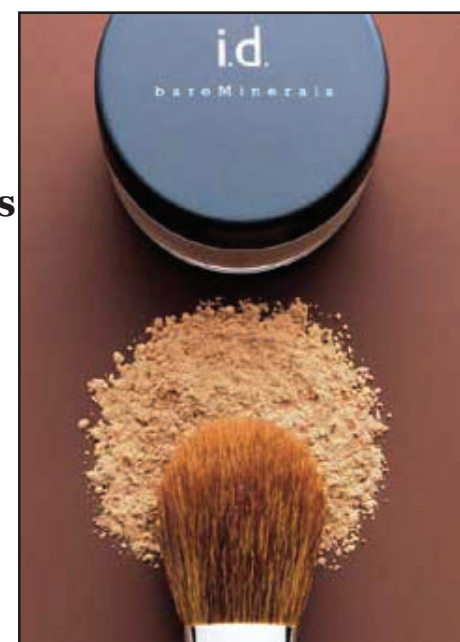
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# Sports

The Colonnade's Guide to Athletics and Recreation

Friday, April 18, 2008

www.gcsunade.com

Section Editor, Corey Dickstein



BOBBY GENTRY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior pitcher Mandy Chandler fires a pitch Saturday at home against Augusta State University. Chandler pitched both halves of the doubleheader, shutting out the Jaguars in each game.

## Lady Bobcats take two from Augusta

BY APRIL ARGO  
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Bobcats softball team stayed on top Saturday in its two game contest against Augusta State.

GCSU swept the Jaguars 4-0 in game one and 1-0 in game two. Junior pitcher Mandy Chandler pitched all 14 innings allowing only two hits.

Chandler dominated on the mound while being backed by a strong defense. A lot of outs were made at first base throughout both games. The outfield stayed on their toes catching flies to keep the Jaguar bats at bay.

"Mandy was huge today. That was key for us," Chaffinch said. "We had timely hitting when we needed it. We had solid playing all day."

Along with the defense, the Lady Bobcat bats were on fire with junior centerfielder Sherquita Bostick going two-for-two and hitting one of the two homeruns of game one.

Junior third baseman Tonya Medders and junior first baseman Kori Pickowitz

each went two-for-three at the plate. Medders hit a double down the right side sending senior leftfielder Ashley Payne in to score in the bottom of the sixth. Sophomore shortstop Kayla Smith was one-for-three with a homerun in the sixth.

Coach Ginger Chaffinch was glad with the game results and with her players.

In game two, Smith blasted a hit past ASU outfielders sending junior designated hitter Chelsea Wilson in to score the only run in the bottom of the sixth inning. Senior catcher Shelbie Lindsey and junior second baseman Lindsey Swanson each went one-for-three at the plate, while senior outfielder Brianna Hope and Bostick both went one-for-two.

Chandler pitched a perfect game until the seventh inning when a hit to left field put the first ASU runner on base. Chandler answered the hit with back to back strikeouts to end the inning and the game.

Energy for the Lady Bobcats and the

Softball Page 13

## 'Cats pitching for hot stretch

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
SENIOR REPORTER

With six Peach Belt Conference games remaining on their schedule, the Bobcat baseball team has its work cut out.

GCSU is 3-3 in the last six PBC games, but hopes to carry momentum from Wednesday's 6-2 win over the University of West Georgia into the weekend series with the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

"Overall it's good to win one and hopefully have some momentum going into this weekend with the season - kind of - on the line," head coach Tom Carty said. "Our guys know that it is good to play well coming into the weekend."

Wednesday's game, while having no bearing within the PBC, showed glimpses of the ability that the team has felt that it has had all season.

Sophomore lefty Clete Jessup started on the mound and did not allow a run while surrendering four hits in four innings.

"Clete's been a little up

Last five	
5-10	L Columbus
6-4	W Columbus
3-11	L Columbus
3-11	L Newberry
6-2	W West GA
Next three	
Sat.	Pembroke
Sat.	Pembroke
Sun.	Pembroke

and down, struggling to - kind of - try and find it," Carty said. "But he threw the ball well tonight."

Jessup struggled in his start last Friday in game one of the series with No. 7 Columbus State University. In 4.1 innings he allowed eight runs - six earned - on 11 hits and three walks.

Senior righty Sean Heimpel also showed signs of rediscovering his dominant form from last season.

Baseball Page 13



ERIN GISH / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore pitcher Jamie Ammons throws a pitch Wednesday as GCSU topped the University of West Georgia 6-2 at home.

## New coach brings fresh attitude to 'Cat soccer



BOBBY GENTRY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

New soccer coach Juan Pablo Favero works with his new players in offseason practice.

BY PRESTON SELLERS  
SENIOR REPORTER

The GCSU Athletic Department has named Juan Pablo Favero the women's soccer coach for the 2008 season and beyond, and the Bobcats look forward to another record-breaking season.

The hiring became necessary after a tumultuous departure by former coach Robert Parr, and the department worked quickly and efficiently to get the man they wanted.

Favero cites the warm atmosphere on the GCSU campus and the feeling of

being wanted as reasons for taking the job.

"The people here made me feel very welcome," he said. "It is certainly a family environment, which made me feel very comfortable throughout the process."

Favero comes to GCSU from Newberry College, where he coached the Lady Indians to their best seasons in school history.

Newberry was one of many programs in his career which he has rebuilt from the ground up, and thus looks forward to coaching here at GCSU with an already-loaded talent pool.

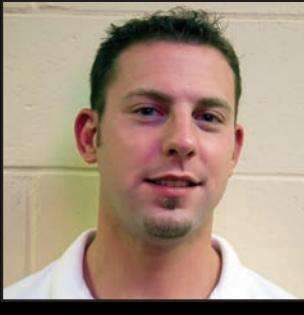
Favero got a first-hand

look at the best team in Bobcat soccer history last season, when his Lady Indians were blanked 1-0 in Milledgeville.

"I think we already have everything here that we need to be successful," Favero said. "The talent I saw here last season was a huge factor in my decision to leave what I already had."

Hayley Ferrell, who scored the only goal in that game, set a new single-season scoring record with 16 goals last season, and was named to the All-Peach Belt

## The Season PASS



BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
SPORTS EDITOR

### Long live fantasy sports

Recently I found myself in a conversation about fantasy sports in which a friend compared them to Dungeons and Dragons.

"Fantasy sports are like Dungeons and Dragons for jocks," he said.

Maybe that is true.

Fantasy sports certainly appeal to jock-type people, such as myself, and I will admit that they have a certain nerdiness to them, but I will always defend the amount of time I put into them.

Fantasy sports have become immensely popular. A 2006 article on CNN.com entitled "Fantasy football... real money" stated, "there are currently between 15 million and 18 million fantasy sports players in the U.S."

The article also said, in the three years leading up to 2006, that number had increased by seven to ten percent each year.

That is incredible but not that surprising.

People can now play fantasy sports in almost any sport, either professional or collegiate, and they can manage their teams online through Web sites such as CBSsportsline.com, ESPN.com and Yahooosports.com.

I am no stranger to fantasy sports. I have played fantasy baseball for the past six years, football for the past four and have also dabbled in fantasy basketball, golf and most recently auto racing.

If you are an avid sports fan, I suggest at least giving fantasy a chance, you will be amazed how much it will draw you into that specific sport.

I know I have found myself cheering, at times, for players I never would have expected to just because they are on my fantasy team.

Maybe fantasy sports are just a competitive outlet for us "has been" athletes, but I will defend them for the rest of my life.

Long live sport, and long live fantasy sports.

Soccer Page 13

# THE SHORT STOP



### Upcoming Sports

#### Baseball:

Saturday 1 p.m. UNC Pembroke  
Sunday 1 p.m. UNC Pembroke  
Tuesday 4 p.m. Albany State

#### Softball:

Fri. - Sun. PBC Tournament

#### Tennis:

Fri. - Sun. PBC Tournament

#### Golf:

Mon. - Tues. PBC Tournament

### Stat of the Week

## 250

The number of strikeouts that junior pitcher Mandy Chandler notched in 181.1 innings during the regular season for the Lady Bobcat softball team.







Spring Break may be over...

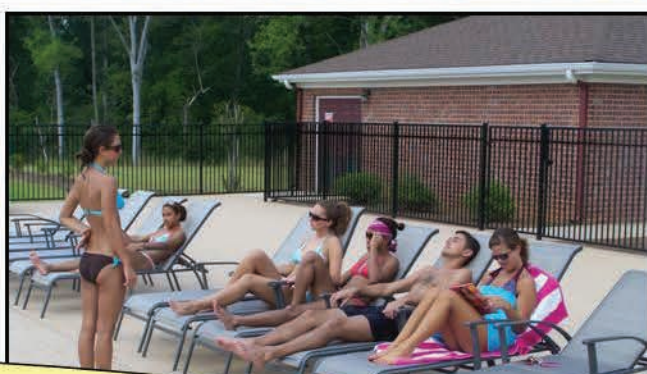
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Utilities - Gas	Included	\$150/month = \$50 per person
Utilities - Water	Included	\$40/month = \$13.33 per person
Utilities - Cable & Internet	Included	\$120/month = \$40 per person
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Gym	Included	\$40/month
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